



Testimony of

Access Health CT before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee

March 17, 2022

**RE: Senate Bill 362: An Act Concerning the Board of Directors of the
Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange**

Good morning, Senator Lesser, Representative Wood, Senator Hwang, Representative Pavalock D'Amato and distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, my name is James Michel, Chief Executive Officer of Access Health CT, the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today regarding Senate Bill 362: An Act Concerning the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange. Access Health CT opposes this bill.

Access Health CT's enabling legislation, CGS Section 381-1081 sets forth eight appointments to the Board of Directors of the Exchange for the Governor and the leaders of the legislature, and the subject matter expertise required for each appointment. These include expertise in health care delivery systems, health care economics, health care access issues faced by self-employed individuals, health care finance, and also barriers to individual care coverage, as well as individual and small employer health insurance.

SB 362 seeks to add an additional requirement that these appointees also have prior employment experience in the insurance industry. This requirement may directly conflict with some of the

expertise requirements for appointees and adds additional burdens for the appointing authorities to identify qualified candidates. Further, CGS Section 1081 includes a prohibition against any board member being employed by, a consultant to, a member of a board of directors of, affiliated with or otherwise a representative of an insurer.

AHCT is also opposed to this bill as it seeks to apply term limit to appointed members of AHCT's Board of Directors. This restriction has not been imposed on other quasi-public agencies of the State of Connecticut. Finding qualified individuals to serve on the AHCT Board can be a challenge due to the above legislative restrictions on who may serve as a member of the Board, along with the subject matter expertise requirements. AHCT has experienced challenges with open appointments on its Board in the past, and finally has an active and engaged full 14-member Board of Directors for the first time in many years. It is important for AHCT to have continuity with its Board of Directors to support its operations, and to have the subject matter knowledge regarding the Exchange's operation.

Access Health CT respectfully requests that the members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee oppose Senate Bill 362.